Remarks

Claim 17 is pending. Claim 17 is rejected.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. Pub. 2002/0138377 (Weber).

Weber fails to disclose each and every limitation of amended claim 17.

With regard to amended claim 17, Weber does not teach periodically receiving input specifying a query to a central database storing information representing a plurality of available audits required to obtain or maintain an accreditation. Rather, Weber provides that

> [a] job name field 184 is also located within the job code table 180. The job name field 184 stores queries referring to specific tasks that are performed by an employee. Specifically, each job performed by an employee requires certain actions to be taken in order to remain in compliance with certain regulatory standards. As an example, OSHA may require a fork lift operator in a chemical plant to use rubber-soled shoes while operating a fork lift. As a result, the job name field 184 may comprise a query that asks if the employee used rubber-soled shoes while operating the fork lift.
> Weber, [0045].

> An observations report is made available by the auditing software 108 (FIG. 1). The observations report summarizes usage of observation queries stored within the job name field 184 (FIG. 6). FIG. 11 is an example of an observations report 352. Specifically, the observations report 352 comprises the following: a job identification column 354; an associated job query column 356; a compliant column 358 for providing a summary of the number of times employees have been in compliance with a job query; a non-compliant column 362 for providing a summary of the number of times employees have not been in compliance with a job query; an incomplete column 364 for summarizing the number of times a job query was randomly selected for an observation sheet, wherein results of an audit performed via use of the observation sheet have not yet been inputted to the auditing system 102 (FIG. 1); and, a last used date column 366 for providing the last date that a job query was randomly selected.
> Weber, [0073].

Nothing in the above suggests receiving input specifying a query to a database that stores information representing a plurality of available audits required to obtain or maintain an accreditation. Instead, the above merely teaches that Weber's "job name field 184" may pose a query to an employee (such as, "[Did] the employee [use] rubber-soled shoes while operating the fork lift"), Weber, [0045], and that Weber's "observations report" includes a "job identification column," an "associated job query column," a "compliant column," a "non-compliant column ," and an "incomplete column," Weber, [0073].

With regard to claim 17, Weber does not disclose each of the queries based on requirements of the witness audit including at least one of SIC code and accreditation type. Weber simply lacks this feature.

Applicant's attorney submits that the claims are in a condition for allowance. Applicant's attorney respectfully requests a notice to that effect. Applicant's attorney also invites a telephone conference if the Examiner believes it will advance the prosecution of this application. Please charge any fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

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